Francis Freeling.

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This is one of the scarcest pieces of this most prolific writer -

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In Blackletter —

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K Taylor (J.)

C.40.d.31.

IACK A LENT

His

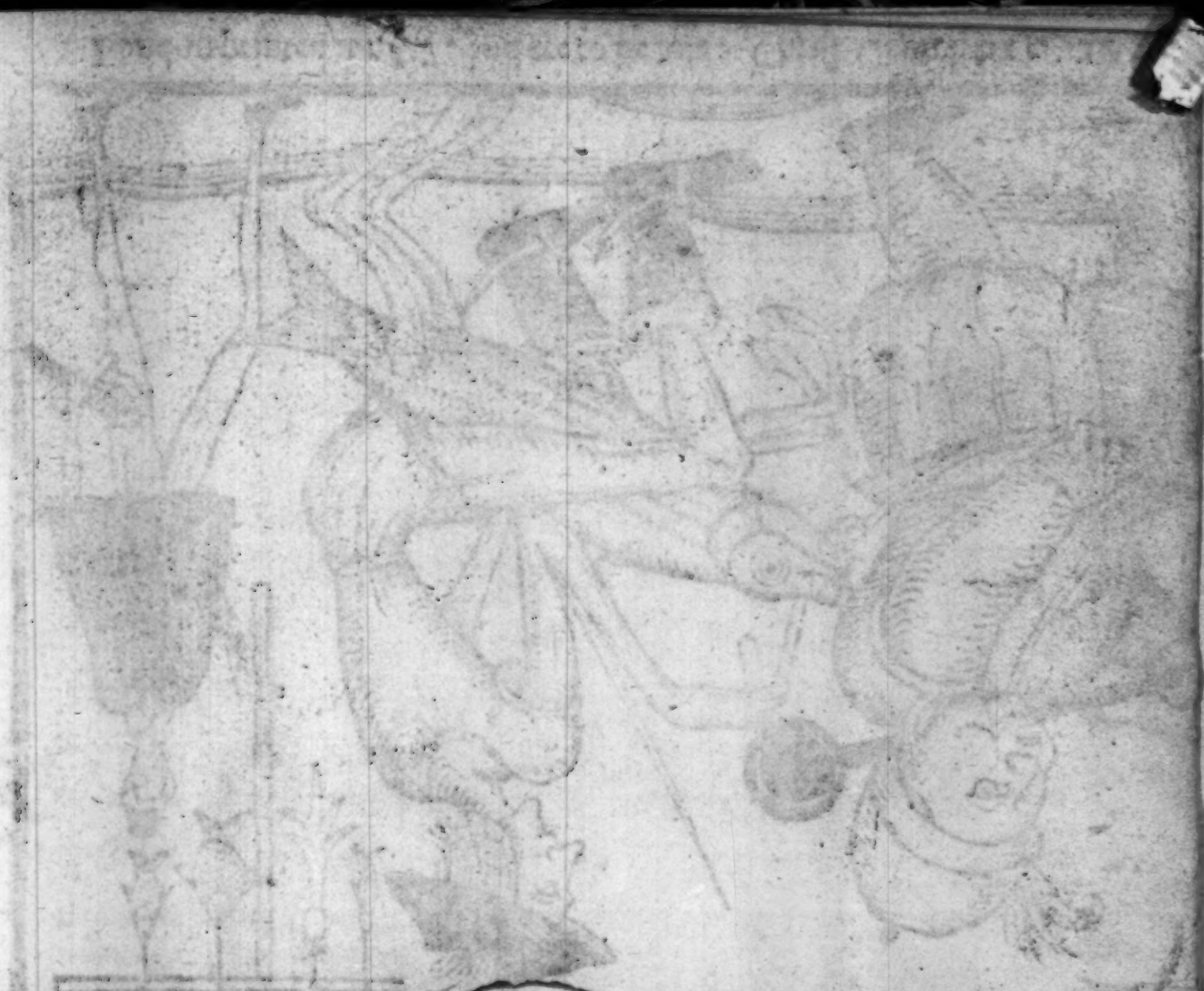
Beginning and Entertainment: with the ma*pranks of his Gentleman-Vsher* Shroue-Tuesday *that goes before* him, and his Foot-man *Hunger* attending.

With new additions, dedicated both to the *Butchers* farewel and the *Fishmongers* Entrance: written to choake Melancholy, and to feed Mirth.

By IOHN TAILOR.

Hunger. *Iack a Lent.* *Shroue-Tuesday.*

London printed for *I. T.* and are to be sold at Christ Church Gate. 1620.



To the Fishmongers and *Butchers, greeting.*

FRiendly, frolicke, franke, free-hearted, famous, flourishing *Fishmongers*; And braue, bold, battring, Beefe-braining *Butchers*, to both your Companies in generall I wish health and happinesse: I acknowledge you to be Haberdashers for the belly, and I wish a plentifull increase of good appetites, and hungry stomacks, that euery one in their calling may proue valiant of their teeth, whereby you may feede merrily by the profit you receiue by nimble-chop'd feeders. I haue plainely and briefely set downe *Iack a Lents* good deeds and his bad, his friends and his foes, the great need and necessitie that we haue of his comming once a yeere into this King-

dome, and the great pitie that he is no better entertained and obserued. And though it be written in a merrie stile, yet I dare presume that mirth and truth walke together in it. In a word, reade it if you like, and iudge it as you list, please your selues and I am pleased: and giue *Iack a Lent* no worse fare for his welcome then he deserues; and then hee remaines euer yours to be commanded, at the signe of *Pisces*, for a dish of Powts, a Carp, or a Cods-head.

IACK

JACK A LENT.

OF *Iacke an Apes* I list not to endite,
Nor of *Iack Daw* my Gooses quill shall write:
Of *Iack* of *Newbery* I will not repeat,
Nor *Iack of both sides*, nor of *Skip-Iacke* neate.
To praise the Turn-spit *Iacke* my Muse is mum,
Nor of the entertainment of *Iacke Drum*
Ile not rehearse: nor of *Iacke Dogge*, *Iacke Date*,
Iacke foole or *Iacke a Dandy* I relate:
Nor of Blacke *Iacks* at gentle Buttry bars,
Whose liquor oftentimes breeds houshold wars:
Nor *Iacke* of *Dower* that Grand Iury *Iacke*,
Nor *Iack Sawce* (the worst knaue amongst the pack.)
But of the *Iacke* of *Iacks*, Great *Iacke a Lent*,
To write his worthy acts is my intent;
How hee's attended with a messe of *Iacks*,
Whose fame my Artlesse weake inuention cracks,
Iacke Herring and *Iacke Sprat*, *Iack Straw*, *Iacke Cade*,
These are the *Iacks* with which my pen must trade.

Iack a Lent.

TO speake of the originall of this Iack, or from whence the name of Iack hath deriuation, I thinke it not impertinent to shew you: Therefore I would haue all men vnderstand that Iack is no Christian, nor was euer baptiz'd, but is sprung (like a Mushrom) out of the corruption of the name of Iohn; for before Iohns were, I did neuer find mention of any Iacks, except black Iacks: and there was an old courteous Epithite attributed to Iohn (as gentle Iohn) but now so many Iacks are made Gentles, that most Iohns and Iacks make no further account of Gentilitie, then glorious Titles and gawdy Sutes: so much for Iack.

Now for the name and beginning of Lent (as neere as I can I will describe) the word Lent doth signifie, a thing borrowed: for except a thing bee borrowed, how is it lent? and beeing lent, it followes by consequence that it was borrowed. But from whom it was borrowed, or who was so free of the loane of this Lent, that would be knowne.

First then, you must conceiue, that the true Etimologie, or ancient name of this Lent, is Lean-tide, which being Anagrammatiz'd, is (Land it) for the chiefe prouision that he is furnished withall being fish, and such seafaring fare, that except hee land it, there will bee but cold takings in the fish-markets: for Iack a Lent hath no societie, affinitie or propinquitie with flesh and blond, and by reason of his leanneſſe (as Nymshag an ancient Vtopian Philosopher declares in his Treatise of the Antiquitie of Ginger-bread, Lib 7. Pag. 30000.) hee should haue beene a Foot-man to a Prince of that Empire named Lurguash Haddernot; but Lent shewed him the trick of a right Foot-man, and ran away from him faster then an Irish Lacquey, and from that time to this was neuer seene in Vtopia. Besides, hee hath the Art of Legerdemaine beyond al the Iugglers in Egypt or Europe,

for

for with a tricke that he hath, hee is in England, Scotland, France, Ireland, and the most part of the Christian world at once and the selfe same time, yet for all this nimblenesse and quicke agilitie, hee was neuer seene to sweate, which is no maruell, because hee hath not any fat or pinguiditie in his incorporeall corps. Hee hath a wife named Fasting, as leane as himselfe, yet sure I thinke shee is as honest, as barren: but it were very dangerous for an Epicure or a Puritan to haue a Bastard by her; for there were no other hope, but that the father of the brat (if it should proue male) would tutor it in all disobedience against both Lent and Fasting: for although Lent and Abstinence be but forty dayes endurance, yet to these valiant men of their teeth it seemes forty yeeres, for they put the letter (e) into the word Fast, and turne it into Feast. And though a man eat Fish til his guts crack, yet if he eate no flesh, he Fasts, because he eates as fast as he can. For the word Fast is to be taken in many senses, as to fast from feeding, and to feede fast, to bee bound to fast, and to be bound fast.

The Fast from feeding is diuers wayes performed.

1 Some there are that fast for pure deuotion, with a zealous abstinence from any kinde of corporall foode for a space, because they will bring downe and curbe their vnbridled affections, and tame their fleshly desires, that so the exercise of spirituall contemplation may bee the more feruent, their repentance more vnfained, and their prayers more acceptable.

2 Another Fast is hypocriticall or sophisticall, as a holy Maid that inioyned her selfe to abstaine foure daies from any meate whatsoeuer, and being locked vp close in a roome, she had nothing but her two Bookes to feede vpon, but the Bookes were two painted Boxes, made in the forme of great Bibles with clasps and bosses, the inside not hauing one word of God in them, nor any

fault escaped in the printing, but the one well filld with Suckets, and sweetmeates, and the other with Wine, vpon which this deuout Votary did fast with zealous meditation, eating vp the contents of one Booke, and drinking contentedly the other.

3 Then there is a Fast called in spight of your teeth, and that is, Will yee nill yee, when a mans stomache is in Folio, and knowes not where to haue a dinner in decimo sexto. This Fast I haue often met withall at the Court, and at diuers great mens houses, not because there hath wanted meat, but because some haue wanted manners, and I haue wanted impudence.

But Iack a Lents fast is otherwise then all those, for I am as willing to fast with him as to feast with Shroue-tide: for hee hath an army of various dishes, an hoast of diuers fishes, with Sallets, Sawces, sweet-meates, Wine, Ale, Beere, Fruit, Rookes, Reysins, Almonds, Spices, with which I haue often (and care not much to vse more often) made as good a shift to fast, and with as good a zeale performed it, as a Brownist will goe to plow vpon a Christmas day.

Thus hauing shewed the originall of this Iack, it followes next, that I declare his yeerely entertainment into this Ile of Great Britaine, what priuiledges he hath, to whom he is best welcome, who are glad of his departure, what friends or foes he hath, and where he inhabiteth all the yeere after his going from hence.

Alwayes before Lent there comes waddling a fat grosse burstен-gutted groome, called Shrone-Tuesday, one whose manners shewes that hee is better fed then taught: and indeed hee is the onely monster for feeding amongst all the dayes of the yeere, for hee deuoures more flesh in fourteene houres, then this whole Kingdome doth (or at the least should do) in fiue weekes after such

such boyling and broyling, such roasting and toasting, such stewing and brewing, such baking frying, mincing, cutting, carving, deuouring, and gorbellyed gurmondizing, that a man would thinke people did take in two moneths prouision at once into their paunches, or that they did ballast their bellies with meate for a voyage to Constantinople, or the West-Indies.

Moreouer, it is a goodly sight to see how the Cookes in great mens Kitchins, doe fry in their masters Suet, and sweat in their own Grease, that if euer a Cooke bee worth the eating, it is when Shroue-Tuesday is in town, for he is so stued and larded, roasted, basted, and almost ouer-roasted, that a man may eate the rawest bit of him and neuer take a surfet. In a word, they are that day extreme Cholericke, and too hot for any man to meddle with, being Monarchs of the Marrow bones, Marquesses of the Mutton, Lords high Regents of the Spit and the Kettle, Barrons of the Gridiron, and sole Commanders of the Frying-pan. And all this hurly burly is for no other purpose, but to stop the mouth of this Land-whale Shroue-Tuesday. At whose entrance in the morning, all the whole kingdome is in quiet, but by that time the clocke strikes eleuen, which (by the helpe of a knauish Sexton) is commonly before nine, then there is a Bell rung, call'd The Pancake Bell, the sound whereof makes thousands of people distracted, and forgetfull eyther of manners or humanitie: Then there is a thing cal'd wheaten flowre, which the sulphory Necromanticke Cookes doe mingle with water, Egges, Spice, and other tragicall magicall inchantments, and then they put it by little and little, into a Frying pan of boyling Suet, where it makes a confused dismall hissing (like the Learnean Snakes in the Reeds of Acheron, Stix, or Phlegeton) vntill at the last by the skill of the Cookes, it is transform'd into the forme of a Flap-

iack, which in our translation is cal'd a Pancake, which ominous incantation the ignorant people doe deuoure very greedily (hauing for the most part well dined before) but they haue no sooner swallowed that sweet-candyed baite, but straight their wits forsake them, and they runne starke mad assembling in routs and throngs numberlesse of vngouerned numbers, with vnciuill ciuill commotions.

Then Tim Tatters (a most valiant villaine) with an Ensigne made of a piece of a Bakers mawkin first vpon a Broome-staffe, bee displayes his dreadfull colours, and calling the ragged Regiment together, makes an illiterate Oration, stuft with most plentifull want of discretion: the conclusion whereof is, that somewhat they will doe, but what they know not. Vntill at last comes marching vp another troope of Tatterdemalians, proclaiming wars against no matter who, so they may be doing. Then these Youths arm'd with cudgels, stones, hammers, rules, trowels, and hand-saws, put Play-houses to the sack, and Bawdy-houses to the spoile, in the quarrell breaking a thousand quarrels (of glasse I meane) making ambitious brickbats breake their necks, tumbling from the tops of lofty chimnies, terribly vntyling houses, ripping vp the bowels of feather-beds, to the inriching of Vpholsters, the profit of Plaisterers and Dirt-dawbers, the gaine of Glaziers, Ioyners, Carpenters, Tylers and Bricklayers. And which is worse, to the contempt of Iustice: for what availes it for a Constable with an armie of reuerend rusty Bill-men to command peace to these beasts, for they with their pockets in stead of Pistols, well-charg'd with stone-shot, discharge against the Image of Authority whole volleyes as thicke as Hayle, which robustious repulse puts the better sort to the worser part, making the band of vnscowred Halbertiers retyre faster then euer they came on, and them

exceeding discretion in proving tall men of their heeles. Thus by the vnmannerly manners of Shroue-Tuesday Constables are baffled, Bawdes are bangd, Punkes are pillag'd, Panders are plagued, and the chiefe Commanmanders of these valorous billiatoes, for their reward for all this confusion, do in conclusion purchase the inheritance of a Jayle, to the commodity of Jaylors, and discommodity of themselues, with a fearfull expectation that Tyburne shall stop their throats, and the Hangman take possession of their coats, or that some Beadle in bloody Characters shall imprint their faults on their shoulders. So much for Shroue-Tuesday, Iack-a-Lents Gentleman Vsher, these haue beene his humours in former times, but I haue some better hope of reformation in him hereafter, and indeed I wrote this before his comming this yeere 1619. not knowing how hee would behaue himselfe: but tottering betwixt Despayre & Hope I leaue him.

Shroue-Tuesday hauing playd these parts aforesaid, doth Exit, and next day Lent begins to enter, who is entertain'd by a graue, formall, reuerend States-man, call'd Ciuill Policy: But you must vnderstand, that Lent would very faine take vp his lodging here with Religion, but Religion will not bee acquainted with him; and therefore Ciuill Policy hath the managing of the businesse. But it is a wonder to see what Munition and Artillery the Epicures, & Canniball Flesh-eaters do prouide to oppose Lent, and keepe him out at the stakes end, as whole barrels of poudered beefe to blow him vp, tubs of Pork to pistoll and shot him thorow with his kindred hunger, famine, and desolation, Baricadoes of Bacon as strong & impregnable Bulwarkes against his inuasiue battery. Which Ciuill Policy perceiuing, causeth Proclamations straight to bee published for the establishing of Lents Gouernment, but then to see how

the Butchers (like silenced Schismaticks) are dispersd, some riding into the Countrey to buy Oxen, Kine, Calues, Sheepe and Lambs, leauing their wiues, men and maids to make prouision of Pricks for the whole yeere in their absence: some againe of the inferiour sort doe scout into Stables, Priuies, Sellers, Sir Francis Drakes Ship at Detford, my Lord Mayors Barge, and diuers secret vnsuspected places, and there they make priuate Shambles with kil-calfe cruelty, and Sheepe-slaughtering murder, to the abuse of Lent, the deceiuing of the Informers, and the great griefe of euery zealous Fishmonger.

For indeed Lent in his own nature is no blood-sucker, nor cannot indure any bloudshed; and it is his intent, that the Bull, the Ore, the Ram, the Goate, the Buck, or any other Beast should bee free to liue in any Corporation without molestation: it is Lents intent that the innocent Lambe, and the Eller Calfe, should suruiue to weare the creft of their Ancestors: that the Goose, the Buzzard, the Widgen, and the Woodcock, may walke fearelesse in any Market Towne, cheeke by iole with a Headborough, or a Tithingman.

The Cut-throat Butchers, wanting throats to cut,
At Lents approach their bloody Shambles shut:
For forty dayes their tyrannie doth cease,
And men and beasts take truce and liue in peace:
The Cow, the Sow, the Ewe may safely feed,
And lough, grunt, bleate, and fructifie and breed,
Cocks, Hens, and Capons, Turkey, Goose and Widgeon,
Hares, Conies, Phesant, Partridge, Plouer, Pidgeon:
All these are from the breake-neck Poulters pawes
Secur'd by Lent, and guarded by the lawes,
The goaring Spits are hang'd for fleshly sticking,
And then Cookes fingers are not worth the licking.

But to recount the numberlesse Army that Lent doth conduct, the great provision of Munition and Artillery that he hath to withstand those that gain-stand him, his weapons of offence and defence, and varietie of hostile Accoustrements that his hoast is arm'd withall: if I should write all these things, my memory must bee boundlesse, because my worke would be endlesse. First, marches Sir Lawrence Ling, with his Regiment, an ancient Sea-faring Gentleman: next followes Colonell Cod, oftentimes bleeding fresh in the Battell: then comes Captaine Stock-fish, a well beaten Souldier, and one that is often proved to endure much; Sir Salmon Salt, in a pittifull Pickle valiantly abides the conflict, and Gilbert Gubbins all to tatters like a ragged souldier many times pieces out a broken supper. The mateſticall king of Fishes, the heroicall most magnificent Herring arm'd in White and Red, keepes his Court in all this hurly-burly not like a tyrannicall teare-throat in open Armes, but like wise Diogenes in a Barrel, where if any of his Regiments either doe or take injury, though hee want the sword of Justice, yet hee hath the scales, which I imagine hee carries not for nought. The great Lord Treasurer to this mighty Prince (old Oliuer Cob) is very inward with him, and knowes more of his secrets then all his Priuy Counsell besides: and when his hard-row'd Master meanes to shew himselfe in his red bloudy colours, then in fury hee associates himselfe with two notorious Rebels, Iacke Strawe and Iacke Cade, who do encompasse him round, and beleaguer him on each side, guarding his person from the fury of winde and weather.

The wet Fishmongers all this while (like so many Executioners) vnkennell the salt Eeles from their briny Ambuscadoes, and with marshall Law hang them vp: the Stock-fish having tryed a terrible action

of

of battery is condemned to be drown'd, the Ling, Haberdine, Green-fish and Cole-fish, are drawne and quartered into poles, backs, and tayles, and (like Rebels in Ireland) hangd with a Withy: nay, the King of fishes himselfe cannot escape, but is tyrannically broyled vpon a Gridiron. Then comes Iack-Sauce with a spoone creeping out of a Mustard pot, arm'd in a pewter Sawcer, a desperate fellow, and one that dares take Dauy Ap Diggon or Shon Ap Morgan, by the nose, and many times (with the spirit of Teuxbury) he will make a man weepe being most merry, and take the matter in snuffe being well pleased.

The Whiting, Rotchet, Gournet and the Mop,
The Scate and Thorneback, in the net doth drop:
The pied-coat Macrell, Pilchard, Sprat and Soale,
To serue great Iack-a-Lent amaine doe trole.

In the Rereward comes Captaine Crab, Lieftenant Lobster, (whose catching clawes alwayes puts me in minde of a Sergeant) the blushing Prawne, the well-armd Dysker, the Scallop, the Wilke, the Muscell, Cockle, and the Periwinckle, these are hot shots, Veneriall prouocators, fishy in substance, and fleshy in operation. The poore Anchoue is pittifully pepper'd in the sight, whilst the Sturgion is keg'd, randed, and iold about the eares, and in conclusion without dissembling eaten with Fennell, the Emblem of flatterie: But the Anchoue is oftentimes reuenged vpon his eaters, for being deuoured raw, he broyles in their stomacks so hotly, that before the heat be quenched, the eaters are drenched in the blood of Baschus, Sacke and Claret, that though a man be as wise as a Constable at his entrance, his wit sometimes is so shrunke in the wetting, that hee may want the vnderstanding of an Asse.

Then

Then there are a crue of neere bred fresh-water Souldiours, our Thamesissians, our Comrades of Barking, our eastern and western River-Rouers, these youths are brought and caught by whole shoales, for indeede they are no fighters, but meere white-liuerd heart-lesse runawayes, like the great Turkes Asappe, that if the Fishermen (like diligent Catch-poles) did not watch narrowly to catch them by hooke and bycrooke, by line and leasure, Lent might gape for Gudgeons, Roch and Dace: were it not for these Netmongers, it is no flat lye to say, the Flounder might lye flat in his watry Cabin, and the Eele (whose slippery tayle puts mee in minde of a formall Courtiers promise) would wriggle vp and downe in his muddy habitation, which would be a great discommodity for schoole-boyes, through the want of scourges to whip Gigs and Towne-Tops.

The Breame, the Lamprey, Barbell, But, and Pike,
Secure might keepe the Riuer, Pond, and Dike:
Carps, Tench, Perch, Smelts, would neuer come to land,
But for Nets, Angles, and the Fishers hand:
And bawling queanes that vse to sell and buy,
Would cry, because they want wherewith to cry.

To speake of the honesty of Fisher-men, and the account that we ought to make of their Calling, it was the faculty of Simon, Andrew, Iames and Iohn, the blessed Apostles, and by a common Rule, all Fishermen must bee men singularly endued, and possest with the vertue of patience, for the Prouerb sayes, If you sweare, you shall catch no Fish, and I my selfe haue beene an eye-witnesse, when seuen or eight Anglers haue employed their best Art and industry two houres, and in the end they haue not beene able to share one Gudgeon or a Bleake amongst them all, the cause hath beene, either

there was no Fish to bee caught, or else one impatient fellow of the Company hath sworne away good lucke.

I could runne ten Kingdomes (or Reames) of paper out of breath, in the praise of this leane Iacke, and his spawnes (Ember-weekes, Fridayes, and fasting dayes) But I suppose there are none more sorrowfull in the time of his beeing heere then Gentlemen and Gentlewomen, for through the Royall Court, the Innes of Court, the Citie and Country, all the better sort weare mourning blacke as long as Lent is in towne: But so soone as hee is gone, then they change colours, and Feast, Banquet, Reuell, and make merry, as if the Land were freed from some notorious Termagant Monster, some murdering Plague, or some deuouring Famine.

The Bakers metamorphose their trade from one shape to another, his round halfe-penny Loaues are transform'd into square Wigs, (which Wigs like drunkards are drown'd in their Ale) the Rolles are turn'd to Simnels, in the shape of Bread-pies, and the light puft vp foure-corner'd Bun, doth shew that the knauery of the Baker is vniuersall, in Europe, Asia, Affrick, and America: for since Colliers and Scriueners haue purchas'd the possession of the Pillory from them, their light bread brings in heauy gaines; where if by chance a Batch or a Basket full beeing examined by the scales of Iustice, and the bread committed to Newgate for want of weight, and the Baker to the Compter for lacke of Conscience, yet hee knowes he shall out againe, and with a trick that he hath, in one weeke he will recouer the consumption of his purse againe, by his moderate light handling of the medicine of Peale, Yeast, and Water.

But now suppose that Palme-sunday is past, and

that you see Lent and both the Fish-streets sing loth to depart, whilst euery wet Fishmonger wrings his hands, and by the reason of cold takings, beates himselfe into a heat, whil'st (to their great griefe) whole herds of Oxen, and flockes of Sheepe, are driuen into euery Towne, for no other purpose but to driue Lent out of the Countrey.

Then pell-mell Murder in a purple hue,
In reeking bloud his slaughtering pawes embrew:
The Butchers Axe (like great *Alcides* Bat)
Dings deadly downe, ten thousand thousand flat:
Each Butcher (by himselfe) makes Marshall Lawes,
Cuts throats, and kils, and quarters, hangs and drawes.

It is a thing worthy to bee noted, to see how all the Dogges in the Towne doe wagge their tayles for ioy, when they see such prouision to driue away Lent, (for a Dogge, a Butcher, and a Puritan, are the greatest enemies hee hath) but there is one day in the yeere that Dogges in generall are most affraid, and that is the Friday after Easter: for they hauing past fiue weekes without seeing any flesh, and indured a hard seidge by Lent and fish-bones, then at Easter they see flesh on the Sunday, Munday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and when the Friday comes they see great store of fish againe: the poore Curres (all in a pittifull quandarie) stinke for woe, for feare that another Lent is come sodainely vpon them: thus they continue in that dogged perplexitie till the Sunday following, when the appearance of flesh makes them haue a feeling, that they were more affraid then hurt.

But imagine Lent is gone, but who knowes whither he is gone? that would be knowne: for it cannot be, but that so mighty a Monarch as hee, hath his in-roades and

his outloapes, his standing court of continuall residence, as well as his tents, houses, and places of remouall for pleasure and progresse. For he comes to vs but by way of annuall visitation: to the Capuchin Fryers he comes twice euery yeere, for they keepe two Lents, because they will be sure to fast double, for when a thing is well done (tis an old saying) it is twice done, and by consequence a thing being twice done, must bee well done: I know not why they doe it, but some say that it is a worke of Super arr rogation: and so I leaue them.

But Lent kéepes his continuall Court with the holy Couents of vnsanctified Fathers, the Fryers Carthusians, these are they that haue made a perpetuall diuorce from beasts, and birds: these are they that haue confirm'd an euerlasting League with Lent, and all the ragged Aquarian Regiments of the spacious Kingdome of Pisces. For when they enter into their order first, they are inioyned neuer to touch or taste any manner of flesh whatsoeuer, which they doe inuiolably performe: for let Hunger and thin-gutted Famine assault them neuer so cruelly, so that there were no fish to be had, yet they hold it meritorious to starue and famish, rather then to eate flesh. For indeed in cases of necessity they haue power to metamorphose flesh into fish: (as for example) when any towne is besieged and sharpely assailed with warre without, and famine within, that meate is falne into such a Consumption that fish is gone, and flesh is scarce, then these venerable fathers (by Apostaticall power which they haue) can take a Sir Loyne of Beefe and thrust his knighthood into a tub of water, and command him to come forth transform'd into a Ling, and so for all kinde of flesh else, they can turne a Pig to a Pike, a Goose into a Gurnet, a Hen to a Herring, a Sow to a Salmon, and an Owle to an Oyster: and all these are no wonders to them, for they are all as nothing to their

exorcising tricke of Transubstantiation in the Sacrament: for it is not possible for any thing to be impossible to them that can make their Maker, and coniure their Sauiour into the forme of bread, and eate him when they haue done. With these enemies of carnality Lent hath domesticall perpetuity, these obserue his Lawes more firmely then they do eyther the first or second Table, and twenty Citizens shall breake politiquely, and take vp their lodging in Luds vnlucky gate, before they will crack the least Iniunction that is articulated betwixt Lent and them.

Thus hauing shewed the progresse, egresse and regresse of this Mediterranian, Atlantike, Belgick, Gallobelgicus, this Caspian, Iberian, British, Celtick, Calidonian, commanding Marine-countermaunder, I thinke it not amisse to declare what good hee doth in this Kingdome, the time of his being here, and how much more good he would doe if he were rightly obserued.

As it is a matter of conscience to obey superiour and supreme Magistrates, so in that respect I hold it a conscience to abstaine from flesh-eating in Lent: not that I thinke it to be vncleane to the cleane, or that the eating or not eating is meritorious: for I am perswaded that a man may goe to Heauen as well with a legge of a Capon, as with a Red Herring. But seeing Lent is ordained to a good intent, for the increase and preseruation of Calues, Lambs, Swine, and all kinde of beasts and birds whatsoeuer, whereby the breeding and multiplicity of these creatures makes our Land the terrestriall Paradise of plenty, and so is (by the bountifull blessings of the Almighty all-giuing Giuer) able to maintaine her selfe, and relieue many neighbouring Realmes and Regions: Surely they are no good Common-wealths men, that wilfully will breake so tolerable an institution, as to refraine fiue or seuen weekes in a yeere from flesh,

hauing so much variety and change of fish and other sustenance more then sufficient.

It is most certaine, that if Lent were truely kept, and the fish-dayes in euery weeke duely obserued, and that euery house in this kingdome did spend but the quantity of two Haberdine or Greenfish in a weeke, that then this Kingdom of Great Brittaine both for meat and Mariners would be the Mistresse of the world, and for wealth and riches superlatiue to the Mines of America.

But the nature of man is so peruerse, that like Pandoraes Bore, he will be tasting and prying soonest into that which he is most restrained from, wherein hee shewes himselfe to be no changeling, but the naturall sonne of Adam, and heyre to his frailety and disobedience: for in common reason (for a common good) if there were no Statutes, no Precepts or Commands for the keeping of Lent and fish-dayes, men would of themselues, (and by their owne imagination) bridle their fleshly appetites with the snaffle of discretion. It is an vnmeasurable detriment to this Kingdome, the abuse, neglect, and contempt of this so laudable and commodious an institution, and the due obseruing of it duly would be vnualuable, I thinke past the reach of Arithmeticke: but I haue often noted, that if any superfluous feasting or gourmandizing paunch-cramming assembly doe meete, the disordered businesse is so ordered, that it must bee eyther in Lent, vpon a Friday, or a Fasting day: for the meat doth not relish wel, except it be sawc'd with disobedience and contempt of Authority. And though they eate Sprats on the Sunday, they care not, so they may bee full gorg'd with flesh on the Friday night.

Then all the zealous Puritans will feast
In detestation of the Romish Beast.

For

For mine own part (as I haue before written) I hold fish or flesh no Maxims, Axioms, or grounds of Religion, but those that wilfully and contemptuously doe eate flesh in the Lent (except such whose appetites are repugnant to fish, and whose nature hath not been vsed to it, except such as are sick, and women with childe, for all which there is a lawfull toleration) except such I say, hee that feasts with flesh in Lent, I wish he might be constrained to fast with fish all the yeere after for his contempt.

Wide and large is the way that I might trauell in this spacious businesse: but few words are best, especially if they be spoken to the wise: and if my poore Iack-a-Lent do happen into the hands of a foole, 'tis but a Foole and a Iack, or two fooles well met: but here is the odds, a wise man will make much of Iack for his plaine dealing and true speaking, when a foole will quarrell with him, and falling together by the eares, teare one anothers clothes, and then Iacks paper-ierkin goes to wracke.

Epilogue to *Iack-a-Lent.*

FArewell thou Noble *Iack* of *Iacks*, farewell,
Hye thee to *Italy*, to *Rome* or *Spaine*:
There of thy welcome heere report and tell,
But looke this twelue month come not heere againe.
And when that time is full expir'd and runne,
Come heere againe, as yeerely thou hast done.
And thy poore Corps with hunger vp to raise,
Take with thee Ember-weekes and fasting dayes.

BRITISH 4 oc 71 MUSEUM

Certaine

Certaine blanke Verſes, written of purpoſe to no purpoſe, yet ſo plainely contriu'd, that a Childe of two yeeres old may vnderſtand them as well as a *good Scholler of fifty.*

GReat *Iack a Lent*, clad in a Robe of Ayre,
Threw mountaines higher then *Alcides* beard:
Whil'ſt Pancradge Church, armd with a Samphier blade,
Began to reaſon of the buſineſſe thus:
You ſquandring Troglodites of Amſterdam,
How long ſhall *Cerberus* a Tapſter be?
What though ſtout *Aiax* lay with *Proſerpine*,
Shall men leaue eating powdred Beefe for that?
I ſee no cauſe but men may pick their teeth,
Though *Brutus* with a ſword did kill himſelfe,
Is ſhooters Hill turn'd to an Oyſter Pye,
Or may a May-pole be a butterd Plaice?
Then let Saint Katherines ſaile to Bridewell Court,
And Chitterlings be worne for ſtatute Lace:
For if a Humble Bee ſhould kill a Whale
With the butt-end of the Antarticke Pole,
'Tis nothing to the marke at which we ayme:
For in the Commentaries of Tower Ditch,
A fat ſlew'd Bawd hath been a diſh of ſtate.
More might be ſaid, but then more muſt be ſpoke,
The weights fell downe becauſe the Iack-rope broke,
And he that of theſe lines doth make a doubt,
Let him ſit downe and pick the meaning out.

FINIS.

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FINIS.